

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, July 10. 1705.

IN the last Paper, I took the freedom to Complain of the severe Treatment I meet with on the Account of this Paper; not, Gentlemen, to move the Pity of Friend or Enemy, but to Examine the End and Reason of it all, and to bring it out, if possible, and reconcile it to Reason, why a Man writing wholly for Peace, and sincerely Designing and Desiring nothing else, should have open Wars raised upon him in such a Violent and Barbarous Manner, and at this time above all Times.

The present Case is plain, that these Gentlemen would have this Author's Mouth stop'd, the Paper laid down, and no more said of the Matter——And to pass by a great many railing, foul, good for-nothing Letters, sent me upon this Subject; I shall ground the Debate upon one Gentleman's Arguments, Included in the following Letter, being a Duplicate to a Letter Printed lately in the *Little Review* by mistake.

MR. De Foe, would seem by his Paper to Invite to Peace; yet it has the Unhap-

piness to be reckoned in common with all Papers of that Nature; to obstruct Peace, prevent Union, cause Strife and Contention; which being true, we Desire to know, Whether Mr. De Foe's Design be Peace, or Interest?—His Intentions are to serve his Country, or himself, if he continue his Paper, unless he remove the Charge?

Some just Remarks may be of Use to the Publick, and you be convinc'd all Papers that meddle with State Affairs, concern the Government, or Parties, are of ill Consequences; that Peace and Union is not to be hoped for, till Writers of both Parties lay down their Pens, and cease to publish their Papers to the World; and therefore would persuade Mr. De Foe, to set an Example to the rest, by first discontinuing his, which will be a plain Demonstration his Design was Peace, not Interest.

Yours, S.

This Gentleman grounds all his Argument, as I conceive, upon an Assumption, which he cannot make out, That this Paper obstructs Peace, prevents Union, and causes Strife; and in some other Letters, is very

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Petulant and Troublesome upon this Presumption.

This is a most Unaccountable Assertion, and I cannot imagine upon what Bottom it is built; I have used Reasons for Peace, that without Vanity can admit no Reply; I have mov'd all People, all Parties to think of Peace, and to consider of the properest Means to bring it to pass: I have studied all the most prevailing Reasons I could imagine, to Engage us to Moderation, Charity, Love, Forbearance and Union of Good Neighbourhood; how can this be call'd an Obstruction to Peace? Wherein can this be call'd a preventing our Union, causing Strife and Contention?

A Modern Author very well Defines Moderation to consist in mixing Justice with Charity, or to that purpose; this I readily agree to, and have Diligently pursued, and declare it to be my single End, and I think I cannot be Detected of having mis'd the Means; in order to try the Truth of which, let me Review the *Reviews* a little, a Work some People have often been Trying to do to my hand——

If what I have writ were justly abridg'd, this must be the Sum.

I first drew the Picture of Peace, that Heavenly Token of a Man, as a Christian, as a Gentleman, and as a Creature form'd in the Image of his Maker.

I have shown the Occasion we have for it in these Nations, with respect to our Circumstances Abroad and at Home.

I have eagerly Exhorted to the Practice, as the only way to leave it as an Inheritance to our Posterity.

I have prescrib'd too *the Means*, such as burying former Relentments, abstracting Imaginary Differences, Exercising Charity, and Tenderneſs to one another, living in a Peace of Neighbourhood and Courtesie, Civility and Good Manners, laying aside *Feuds, Fears, Jealousies, Wrath, Strife, Envyings*, &c.

These have been some among the many Methods I have taken to move us to Peace; from thence I was proceeding to Argue from past Dangers, present Disappointments, and future Prospects, and too prophetically hinted the possibility of Miscarrying upon the

Mosselle; which tho' it has since come to pass, I hope no Man can say I rejoyce in, nor do I at all doubt, but the Bravery and Diligence of the best General that ever serv'd the *English* Crown, will soon fair to retrieve the Mischiefs, a Doubtful if not a Treacherous Conduct of our *German* Confederates, has Expos'd us to.

I was going on to prove the Necessity of Peace from the Vicissitude and Uncertainty of Things Abroad, and from such proper Arguments as the Power and Successful Conduct of our Enemies present us with.

And here comes a Wise Director, and he tells us, All this is an Obstruction to Peace; indeed Sir! Why then throwing Water is the way to Encrease Fire; and when your Houses are on Fire, you ought to forbid the Engines, Buckets, and Fire men, that it might go out of it self, or send others to throw in large Quantities of Bitumen, Sulphur, and Charcoal to put it out.

But shall I go on with my Abridgment? In my prosecuting this Argument of Peace, an Unhappy Juncture came in my way, the Election of a New Parliament.

The Actions of some Men in a late House, had given such just ground to believe they were far from wishing, much less endeavouring the Nations Peace, that I could not have said any thing Effectually to persuade to Peace, if I had not warn'd the People of *England* against giving them a second Opportunity to Attempt the preventing of it; these Contraries could never have Illustrated one another, if they had not been plac'd in their due Opposition.

But after all, even in this part of the Argument, which I cannot see the least reason to retract, how have I Treated the Gentlemen?

I have call'd them mistaken Gentlemen, propos'd to have them Treated as Gentlemen, *laid gently by*, drop'd easily, and with Respect, and Leisure given them to reflect and change their Minds: I have Advis'd the People to be satisfied the Design is disappointed, to be Quiet and Content, only not to put them into the same Trust.

If in Examining the Particulars, I have been so free as to stile them M— M— in the Attempt; I think nothing kinder could have been

been said, since there was an Unhappy Necessity to reflect either upon their Honesty, or their Understanding.

Now I cannot see the least room to Argue, that Advising the Free-holders to Choose Men of Peace, Men of Temper, and Moderation; Men that would try no more *Dangerous Experiments* with the Nation, can have any thing in it tending to Injure our Peace, or stir up Contentions.

If therefore these Gentlemen pretend to say, That to press the People to reject the Tackers, be an Obstruction to Peace, I am ready to join Issue upon that Point; and Debate, Whether a Parliament of Gentlemen Enclin'd to the Tacking of Bills, to Persecuting Laws, and to forcing the Lords to act against their stated Rules, or Delay the Publick Affairs, and hazard all, be the Men likely to bring us to Peace? And on the contrary, Whether a Parliament of Gentlemen fill'd with Charity, Temper, and Moderation, and abhorring Persecution, are likely to Obstruct the Peace of this Nation?

Thus I have brought the Question to a head, and I should be glad to see the Discretion of those Gentlemen Defended, who at so Critical and Dangerous a Conjunction, Ventur'd an Attempt so Capable of Ruining the whole Nation, so Adapted to the Destruction of Civil Liberty, and the Protestant Religion, so particularly qualified to Embroil us at Home, and frustrate us Abroad.

To Threaten me with Parliament Resentments upon the freedom I take in this Case, is to Insult Parliamentary Justice, and Banter an *English* Parliament; it has not been the Practice of Parliaments in *England*, to treat Men ill for speaking the Truth; and to such I must say, if the Truth must be Punish'd, I must be Punish'd; for I so freely Depend upon the Positive Demonstration of what I have advanc'd in this Argument of Peace, That if a Parliament of D—s were to Meet, I resolve to hold my Face to it, let the Consequences be what they will.

To say a Man shall be call'd to Account by an *English* Parliament for Exhorting to Peace, for pressing the Nation to Choose Men of Peace, is to say, We have a Parliament a coming that are Enemies to Peace.

No, Gentlemen, the People of *England*

have learn'd better; I have not the Vanity to say, I have had a Hand in opening their Eyes, but I can tell you who has, Even the Tackers themselves; that one Action has given the greatest Blow to the Party that ever was given; Tacking has ruin'd Tacking; nothing has open'd the Eyes of the People like your own Unaccountable Proceedings.

First, These Warm Gentlemen Open'd the Queens Eyes, Her Majesty thought them Honester and Wiser, at least we may presume so, or else Her Majesty would not have Trusted them as she did; but they Discovered their True Designs too hastily, and the Royal Foresight Dismiss'd them as they Deserved.

Their Warm Brethren, in spite of Royal Exhortations, and repeated Cautions from the Throne, went on to their Dangerous Extreams, and this Opened the Eyes of the Nation, this threw near Fifty of them out in the next Election; and if they go on, who knows how many of them will be lett in another? But 'tis hoped they will see their Mistake, and be wiser.

I advanc'd once in this Paper, That the Consequences of this Warmth of Spirit, appear'd in the Violent Methods used to get in again, and Undertook to Charge the Ryots, the Tumults, the Quarrels, Drunkenness, Briberies, False Returns, Perjur'd Votes, Clandestine Pollings, and the long Roll of ill Practices in Elections, to the Account of the Violent Haste of the Tackers to get in again; and I am told, this is the chief Article on which 'tis pretended, I am an Obstruction to Peace——Since the Matter of Fact is not made out,

Indeed I thought it was enough to give them a Hint at it in general, and let them Reflect upon their own Guilt, which might Easily Convince them I am able to make a great deal of it out; but since I am charged with Slandering the Party, and Upbraided with Lying, I only refer the Reader to the History of the Elections of about Twenty seven several Places, now preparing for the Press, in which I am mistaken, if any Age can Match the Illegal Methods taken for the carrying on the Tacking Interest; and when these are Published, I shall freely refer it to their own Consciences to judge of the Fact, and

and should be very willing to see, if they can Balance the Account with us, which if they can, I recommend both Parties to the Mercy of the Ensuing Parliament; for if these things obtain no Redress there, the Lord have Mercy on our Posterity, when these ways of Chooling by Fighting, Bribery, and Perjury, may come to be as General, as they are now Extraordinary; and which is worst of all, this at a time when Variety of New Laws are just in force to Cure and Prevent it.

Just Publish'd,

THE *Appendix to the Review*; Together with an *Index* of the First Volume; which Compleats the said First Volume of the *Reviews*: And all those Gentlemen, who have bespoke of the Author, the said First Volume Entire, may have them Deliver'd, Bound up together with all the *Supplements*, at *J. Matthews's*, or at the Publishers of the *Review*.

WHEREAS a Proposal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subscriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Satyr upon Tyranny and Passive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long since Subscrib'd, and the Time seeming long for its coming out, some very Good Reasons having obliged the Author to put a stop to it,

These are to give Notice, That the said Book is now in the Press, and shall go on to be Printed with all Expedition: And for the further Satisfaction of the Subscribers, the Sheets may be seen every Day by any that please to give themselves that Trouble, at Mr. *J. Matthews*, as they come out of the Press.

All those Gentlemen, who have Collected Subscriptions for this Book are Desir'd to send in an Account of what Number they have taken, there being no more to be Printed, than shall be given Notice, as Subscribed; and, if they please, to Pay the Subscription Money to Mr. *Matthews* in *Pilkington Court, Little Britain*, Receipts will be given there for it.

Lately Publish'd,

THE *Consolator*; or, *Memoirs of sundry Transactions in the World in the Moon*: By a Native of that Climate. Translated from the Lunar Language, by the Author of *The True-born English Man*.

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These are to give Notice,

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